**American Government**

**Study Guide**

**Ch. 5-9**

**10-18-2011**

**Terms:**

Bipartisan

Coalition

Ideological parties

Splinter parties

Spoils system

Ballot fatigue

Gerrymandering

Injunction

Political efficacy

Political socialization

Closed primary

Hard money

Soft money

Open primary

Interest group

Mandate

Public agenda

Peer group

Mass media

Amicus curiae brief

Grass-roots pressures

Lobbying

Public-interest group

Public policy

**Main Ideas:**

1. What is a political party?

2. Which party has dominated the Federal Government in recent decades?

3. How do minor parties demonstrate their influence?

4. Describe the nature of the major political parties today.

5. Who sets suffrage qualifications?

6. Where has the most recent expansion of the electorate come from?

7. How did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 affect voting rights?

8. What is preclearance?

9. What is the main reason for nonvoting?

10. Know the following: primary, convention, caucus, petition.

11. What is the principal nominating method used in most states?

12. What level of government decides most election law?

13. Know the following: sample ballot, party-column ballot, Indiana ballot, bed-

sheet ballot.

14. What is the largest item in most campaign budgets?

15. What has the earliest and longest lasting influence on people’s political

opinions?

16. What is the problem with using interest groups to measure public opinion?

17. What is the best way to measure public opinion?

18. What is the major limitation on the media’s influence on politics?

19. What are the major differences between interest groups and political parties?

20. Why are there a large number of interest groups in the U.S.?

21. Know the following: labor groups, business groups, agricultural groups,

professional associations.

22. What is the main feature of public interest groups?

23. What is the difference between the direct and indirect approach used by

interest groups?

24. What is the main goal of propaganda?